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**Our ref:** LT000029\_s37\_application\_April2022

5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Your ref:** ECU00002199

Dear Shafharia

**Application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for construction and operation of a 13.3km overhead line supported on steel lattice towers between the proposed Creag Dhuhb Substation and the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) 275 kV OHL that runs from Dalmally to Inverarnan, near Succoth Glen (Glen Lochy), via a Tie-in Connection, in Argyll and Bute.**

This application is being submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant) who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.

SSEN Transmission is seeking consent for the construction and operation of approximately 13.3 km of 275 kV overhead line supported on steel lattice towers between the proposed Creag Dhuhb Substation and the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) 275 kV OHL that runs from Dalmally to Inverarnan, near Succoth Glen (Glen Lochy), via a Tie-in Connection (the Proposed Development). The Proposed Development is located approximately 1 km south of Dalmally and 0.6 km south of Cladich (at the closest points), in Argyll and Bute (OS Grid Reference NN 874.195 to NN 191.262).

SSEN Transmission has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A Planning Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) have been submitted as part of this application, as set out in the 'Electricity Act 1989 - sections 36 and 37: applications guidance' <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/1/>.

There are a total of 13 Necessary Wayleaves and two third party access agreements currently being discussed with Landowners. Necessary Wayleaves are to be formally submitted on or around 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **SPEN Tie-In Application for Consent**

The proposed Tie-in infrastructure to connect the Proposed Development from T47, to the existing SPEN 275 kV OHL between Dalmally and Inverarnay (known as “the YW route”), via a new terminal tower (T48/YW17R) between existing SPEN Towers YW17 and YW18, has been assessed as part of this EIA.

The works to facilitate the connection, involve the construction of a temporary diversion and installation of a new terminal tower (T48/YW17R) between existing SPEN Towers YW17 and YW18 (“the SPEN Tie in”) and will be undertaken by SPEN as these works directly affect their YW route.

The legislative framework does not allow the transfer of a Section 37 consent to another electricity operator. As such, whilst SSEN has assessed the Tie-In infrastructure connection, SPEN will submit a separate application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, as amended for a new terminal tower (T48/YW17R) between existing SPEN Towers YW17 and YW18 and a temporary diversion to facilitate the Tie-In, whilst maintaining a supply of electricity to the wider network.

SPEN will utilise this EIA for their s37 application and will submit their application in due course.

### **The Proposal**

A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIA Report submitted with this application. In summary, the Proposed Development comprises:

- a 13.3 kilometre (km) double circuit 275 kV OHL, supported by lattice steel towers between a proposed substation at Creag Dhubh to the existing SPEN 275 kV OHL, the YW Route, that runs from Dalmally to Inverarnan, near Glen Lochy (Succoth Glen);
- a Tie-In connection involving the proposed OHL being connected to the existing SPEN 275 kV OHL, the YW route, via a new terminal tower (T48/YW17R) located between existing SPEN Towers YW17 and YW18, from the proposed T47.

Ancillary works for the construction and maintenance of the OHL, including:

- Vegetation management and tree felling to create a safe operational corridor for construction and operation.
- A temporary OHL diversion to reduce circuit outages and facilitate the SPEN tie-in between towers YW16 and YW19 on the SPEN YW Route.
- Undergrounding of the existing distribution network infrastructure which are crossed by the OHL (carried out under permitted development rights).
- Formation of bellmouths at public road access points.
- Construction of new permanent and temporary (stone) access tracks and upgrades to existing tracks.
- Downleads to tie in Tower 1A to the Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation.
- Tower working areas, crane pads, helicopter pads and winching positions.
- A satellite dish for protection communications to be mounted on a OHL tower.
- Road and other infrastructure alterations (e.g. bridges and culverts).
- Site restoration and habitat enhancement, following completion of construction.

Limits of Deviation (LOD's) are included within the application as 100m either side of the alignment and 50m either side of the track, with a vertical tower LOD of 20%.

### **Project Need**

SSEN Transmission has seen a significant increase in, predominantly renewable energy, generator connection applications in Argyll and Kintyre in the last 18 months, requesting to connect to the transmission network. Therefore, there is a need to increase the network capability in Argyll and Kintyre, beyond that already under current construction and public development, to enable the connection of further renewable generation and to export to the wider GB network. This group of works designed to deliver the required increase in network capacity has been named the 'Argyll and Kintyre 275 kV Strategy' [Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/Argyll-and-Kintyre-275kV-Strategy).

The Proposed Development forms part of this strategy and aims to reinforce the existing transmission network connections in the Argyll region, to enable renewable energy projects to connect to the GB transmission network and to ensure security of supply. Infrastructure for the transportation of low carbon electricity is essential to delivering the Scottish Government target for the equivalent of 50% of Scotland's heat, transport, and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources.

### **Application Details**

The following documents have been submitted in support of this application:

- Detailed Planning Statement.
- Detailed Maps of the Proposed Development including the site location, proposed indicative alignment, access tracks, temporary diversion, and further detailed maps on specific aspects of the EIA report.
- Two Pre-application Consultation Reports are included: The Report on Consultation (ROC) November 2021 detailing the alignment consultation and the ROC November 2020 detailing the routeing alignment consultation.
- EIA Report with associated Technical Appendices and Figures.
- Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA) (EIA Report Technical Appendix 10.3) which follows the PLHRA Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>.
- 3 x dwgs providing design detail for the Bellmouth formations needed to access the Proposed Development from the Public Road, comprising, Access Example, General Arrangement and Construction Detail.
- Non-Technical Summary.
- A separate Schedule of Mitigation.
- Consultee List.

### **Consultation**

A Consultee List has been submitted with this application for the ECU to approve. This identifies statutory and non-statutory consultees that SSEN has identified, to be contacted by the ECU to request a formal representation.

As discussed at the Gate Check meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with the ECU, SSEN Transmission would like the public consultation period to extend to 60 days.

We are planning a public information event on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Dalmally, where we will answer questions on the application and provide information on how stakeholders can make their representations. SSEN Transmission had intended to hold an information event prior to the s37 submission. However, these were postponed at the request of the local community due to Covid-19 outbreaks in the local area.

Extending the consultation period to 60 days will allow those who wish to make representation a greater timeframe in which to digest the EIA report, attend the public information event on 16<sup>th</sup> June and form their response.

### **Section 37 Press Advert**

A draft advert has been issued to the ECU Case Officer for agreement prior to printing. The papers listed below would be used to publish the Section 37 Advert for the Proposed Development and each paper would print the advert for two consecutive weeks.

- Edinburgh Gazette
- Glasgow Herald
- Oban Times
- Argyll Advertiser

The above addresses the minimum requirement to publish the advert in one or more newspapers circulating in the locality of the proposed development (for two consecutive weeks); one or more national newspapers (for one week); and in the Edinburgh Gazette (for one week).

We would intend to publish the advert on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, subject to validation of this application and agreement with the ECU.

### **Confidential Information**

SSEN Transmission will submit all confidential information directly to the ECU Case Officer via email and has not uploaded any confidential information to the online portal. We will also contact NatureScot, Argyll & Bute Council and RSPB respectively regarding how they wish to receive the confidential annexes.

### **Payment**

An application fee of £19,500 has been processed under ref: ECU00002199.



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

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TRANSMISSION

**Next Steps**

We trust that the submission is complete and look forward to confirmation of receipt and validation. Should you have any queries or require further information please contact me on the details above. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely

*Jackie Taylor*

Consents and Environment Manager